

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 01523 061134Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 1523

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TAGS: SNAR, UN, TU

SUBJECT: TURKISH/UN DEVELOPMENTS

REF: GENEVA 1522

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER GIVEN AMBASSADOR KIRCA BY
MARTENS MARCH 5.

QUOTE: I HAVE THE HONOUR TO INVITE YOUR ATTENTION TO THE
SUBJECT OF THE PRICE WHICH SHOULD APPROPRIATELY BE PAID TO
THE TURKISH FARMER FOR HIS 1975 HARVEST OF POPPY STRAW.
WE ARE NOW IN A POSITION TO ENTER INTO CONVERSATIONS WITH YOU
REGARDING POSSIBLE BASES ON WHICH THE UNITED NATIONS MIGHT
ASSIST THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT TO BUTTRESS ITS CONTROL
MEASURES BY ESTABLISHING A GUARANTEED PRICE AT WHICH THE
GOVERNMENT MONOPOLY WILL BUY ALL THE POPPY STRAW WHICH WILL
BE PRODUCED THIS YEAR FROM LICENSED FARMS.

QUOTE: THE UN MISSIONS TO TURKEY HAVE STRESSED THE
IMPORTANCE AS A CONTROL MEASURE OF PAYING A GUARANTEED
PRICE AT A LEVEL WHICH WILL MAKE THE FARMER A WILLING
PARTNER IN THE CONTROL SYSTEM. THEY HAVE ALSO STATED
THEIR SENSE OF THE GREAT VALUE OF MAKING THIS PRICE WIDELY
KNOWN WELL IN ADVANCE OF THE PERIOD WHEN THE POPPY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GENEVA 01523 061134Z

CAPSULES MAY BE INCISED TO PRODUCE OPIUM, AND OF PAYING

THE FARMER IN CASH IN FULL AT THE TIME HE DELIVERS HIS STRAW TO THE GOVERNMENT BUYING CENTRE. WE BELIEVE THAT THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT WILL ACCEPT THE VALIDITY OF THESE RECOMMENDATIONS, AND WE SHALL ASSUME IN OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH YOU THAT IT WILL DO SO. WE HOPE THAT WE SHALL BE INFORMED OF THE PRICE THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS AN APPROPRIATE GUARANTEED BUYING PRICE, AND WHAT CALCULATIONS HAVE BEEN USED TO REACH ITS CONCLUSION.

QUOTE: THE UN MISSIONS ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT THIS PRICE SHOULD AT THE MINIMUM BE AT A LEVEL WHICH ENSURES THAT THE FARMER DOES NOT SUFFER FINANCIAL LOSS AS A RESULT OF THE CHANGE FROM THE SYSTEM OF OPIUM PRODUCTION TO THAT REQUIRING THE HARVESTING OF POPPY STRAW CONSISTING OF UNINCISED CAPSULES. THIS PRICE SHOULD CLEARLY BE ONE, EXPRESSED IN TURKISH LIRE PER KG OF STRAW, WHICH IS THE EQUIVALENT OF WHAT THE FARMER WOULD HAVE GOT IN 1975 HAD HE BEEN SELLING BOTH OPIUM TO THE GOVERNMENT AND INCISED POPPY STRAW TO COMMERCIAL INTERESTS.

QUOTE: WE ARE PREPARED TO DISCUSS WITH YOU WHAT THIS EQUIVALENT PRICE MAY BE ESTIMATED TO BE AND ALSO WHETHER IT IS LIKELY TO BE HIGH ENOUGH TO SECURE THE WILLING SALE BY THE FARMER OF HIS UNINCISED STRAW TO THE GOVERNMENT BUYING MONOPOLY. IN SO DOING WE ARE READY TO SHOW YOU OUR PROVISIONAL FORMULAE AND CALCULATIONS. AT THIS STAGE WE ARE INCLINED TO THINK THAT THE EQUIVALENT PRICE WILL IN FACT BE HIGH ENOUGH TO BE AN EFFECTIVE AND PERSUASIVE GUARANTEED PRICE.

QUOTE: WE ARE ALSO PREPARED TO DISCUSS WHETHER THE PAYMENT OF THE GUARANTEED PRICE WE AGREE TO BE REASONABLE IN ALL THE CIRCUMSTANCES IS LIKELY TO LEAD TO A LOSS BY THE GOVERNMENT. ELEMENTS IN SUCH A CALCULATION WOULD INCLUDE NOT ONLY THE TOTAL COST OF BUYING THE HARVEST BUT ALSO THE COSTS OF ADMINISTRATION, OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING, AND ON THE OTHER HAND THE TOTAL SUM OBTAINED FROM SALES. AT PRESENT, FIGURES IN THIS CALCULATION CAN ONLY BE ESTIMATED; IT WILL NOT BE UNTIL LATER IN THE YEAR THAT ACTUAL VERIFIED FIGURES WILL BECOME AVAILABLE. WE ARE, HOWEVER, PREPARED TO DISCUSS

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 GENEVA 01523 061134Z

NOW THE ELEMENTS THAT SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN MAKING THIS CALCULATION.

QUOTE: IF PRODUCTION COSTS SHOULD EXCEED THE NET SELLING RETURNS, THEN UNFDAC STANDS READY TO ASSIST THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT TO MEET THIS DEFICIENCY. THIS CONTINGENCY COMMITMENT WILL BE REGARDED AS AN INTERNATIONAL CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS SECURING THE BEST POSSIBLE CONTROL

OVER THE OPIUM POPPY HARVEST AND IS MADE ONLY IN
RESPECT OF 1975, WHICH IS PLAINLY A TRANSITIONAL PERIOD.

QUOTE: I HOPE THAT YOU WILL AGREE THAT THESE
CONSIDERATIONS FORM A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE BASIS UPON WHICH
TO CONDUCT OUR CONVERSATIONS. END QUOTE. DALE

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